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Cuban statements regarding negotiations on Central America

29 January 1982: Carlos Rafael Rodriguez is interviewed by
REVOLUTION magazine (Paris)

"Our solidarity with Latin America is not negotiable either. We can support and are supporting a political solution instead of an armed solution, but we do so because we think, in agreement with the revolutionary forces in El Salvador that it is the best solution for the Salvadoran people, not because the Americans want to prevent a solution through arms."

24 February 1982: Fidel Castro sends open letter to Mexican President Lopez Portillo

Castro pledges to help end Central American political violence if the US ends its constant threats against Cuba.

early March 1982: General Vernon Walters meets with Fidel Castro in Havana.

Central America was the most contentious issue discussed in the session which focused on bilateral problems. Castro tells General Walters "we can discuss Central America." No indication of flexibility on this issue from the Cuban side.

4 April: Fidel Castro speaks to UJC Congress in Havana

Near end of speech Castro raises the tense situation in Central America:

"Our country's position, clear and guileless, was publicly stated. Our country is willing to work in the search for a negotiated political solution to the problems of El Salvador, Central America and the area. We firmly and seriously support Lopez Portillo's position. The Mexicans have even publicly suggested--they suggested this to us and to the US government--moderation of language. They had suggested a certain verbal de-escalation, a certain moderation in tone."

1-5 April 1982: Carlos Rafael Rodriguez tells a group of US political scientists visiting Cuba for a seminar on international relations and questions of mutual interest:

"Cuba would now be willing to participate in broad negotiations with the US government and other countries concerning multilateral issues such as Southern Africa and Central America."

5 April 1982: Carlos Rafael Rodriguez tells a visiting US political scientist in private:

"We believe that elections will not solve the problem in El Salvador and that the only solution is through negotiations. That would imply compromise by Cuba and by other nations who are aiding the guerrillas and we would agree to stopping our aid to the guerrillas and for there to be a stop of aid to the rest of Latin America. But that would also imply the US' commitment to restrain its material aid to the Junta. We have declared that we are willing to take part in multilateral and bilateral non-aggression pacts and think that these pacts might form part of a global process to find a negotiated solution in Central America that would lead to democratic change in El Salvador and Guatemala. By democratic change meaning the change that would allow

the people of Central America to decide for themselves without fear or interference what they wished for themselves. But for this to happen there has to be a global agreement with all forces; including the US.

6 May 1982: LEMONDE carries interview with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez:

"Normalization of our relations with the US now depends on a negotiated settlement in Central America."

May: Interview with Fidel Castro by TransAfrica Forum:

"In the present situation in which a crisis exists in the area as a result of the situation in Central America, I believe it would be really helpful if a politically negotiated solution were to be found for the problems of El Salvador and the area in general."

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